

Drexel Hill, PA -- On Saturday, March 25, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), attended the Friends of the Swedish Cabin Annual Pea Soup Benefit in support of this important historical landmark in Delaware County.

“All across America, in the small towns and great cities of this country, our heritage as a nation – the physical evidence of our past – is at risk,” noted Joe at the benefit. “In virtually every corner of this land, the homes in which our grandparents and parents grew up, the main streets of our downtowns where we shopped and worked, and the schools and churches where we studied and prayed, are suffering the ravages of abandonment and decay. For instance, in just one decade, Philadelphia lost 10,000 housing units. It is important to understand that it is not just the buildings we are losing; it is the sense of our past, the vitality of our communities and the shared values of those precious places. I am here tonight to applaud you for your work. As all of you are well aware, we do not have to stand hopelessly by as passive witnesses to this loss of irreplaceable historic resources. We can act.”

The Swedish cabin, named for the early Swedish settlers who are likely to have built this cabin when Pennsylvania was still part of the New Sweden colony, is estimated to have been built between 1638 and 1655. Since that time, the cabin was occupied for nearly 300 years until it was finally vacated in the mid-1900s. Because of the neglect, the cabin was almost lost, until a group of concerned citizens enlisted the help of the local government to preserve this rare historic site. In 1985, the Swedish Cabin was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Friends of the Swedish Cabin was established to maintain and preserve the cabin.

“Through your efforts, you have not only saved an invaluable piece of our heritage but you have given us a place where we can gather as a community to meet and learn of our forefathers who helped make this country what it is today,” added Joe.

The Friends of the Swedish Cabin is a volunteer, non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to preserve the Swedish Cabin in an effort to teach future generations of our past, foster an appreciation for traditional Swedish culture and values, and to preserve historic sites and buildings. The Annual Pea Soup Benefit is one of the largest fundraisers for the organization. The event is a way not only to raise much-needed resources for the organization and the cabin, but also a way to teach about traditional Swedish cuisine and culture. Artsoppa, a traditional, Swedish yellow pea soup, was served along with breads and coffees unique to Sweden.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

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